

Comparison of Alternatives

Access and Transportation					
Topic	Alternative A Current Management	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D	Alternative E
BLM Roads to State and Private Land	All BLM roads to State and private lands would be open for administrative, private landowner, and public use.	All BLM roads to State and private lands would be open for administrative and private landowner use. These roads would also be open for public use unless closed to meet Monument objectives.			
BLM Roads	All existing BLM roads are open unless previously restricted through the West HiLine RMP, Judith-Valley-Phillips RMP, and completed watershed plans.	The BLM would evaluate roads based on erosion, identified wildlife species habitat, and the need for the road (type of use and need for access). This includes closing or rerouting roads that impact wildlife or soils (e.g. highly erosive soils, weeds). The BLM reserves the option to build new roads if necessary.	The BLM would retain roads associated with resource uses such as to recreations sites, gas well sites, major range improvement projects, and fire suppression. This includes retaining access to areas commonly used for dispersed recreation like geological areas and trailheads. The BLM would may reduce the number of roads in identified crucial wildlife habitat, in areas considered unsuitable due to erosion and slope, and if unique geologic formations, cultural sites, or riparian areas are degraded. The BLM reserves the option to	The BLM would retain roads if they serve a specific purpose (recreation sites, gas well sites, and major range improvement projects). Most roads that are not collector or local would be closed along with eliminating parallel roads. Roads would remain open along the middle of ridges, but most roads along the edge of rims and spur roads would be closed. The BLM reserves the option to build new roads if necessary.	The BLM would retain collector and local roads but most resource roads would be closed (resource roads currently maintained would remain open).

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			build new roads if necessary.		
Administrative Use Off Road and on Closed Roads	Administrative use off-road and on closed roads for BLM, other Federal agencies, State and County agencies, lessees, and permittees is allowed. Administrative use is limited to those activities necessary to administer the permit.		Closed roads would be available for administrative use by the BLM, other federal agencies, State, and County. Permittees and lessees would be allowed to drive off-road and on closed roads to administer their permits with the development and use of an identification system.	Administrative use off-road for BLM, other Federal agencies, State and County agencies is allowed. Closed roads would be available for administrative use by the BLM, other federal agencies, State, and County. Seasonal use provisions would be allowed for lessees and permittees as needed to administer the lease with the development and use of an identification system.	Administrative use for BLM, other Federal agencies, State and County agencies is allowed on closed roads. Off-road travel would not be allowed. The BLM would provide a case-by-case permission for administrative use by lessees and permittees.
	The entire Monument is open for fire and emergency services off-road and on closed roads.				
New Road Access	The BLM would attempt to acquire public access easements for administrative use and for the public.	The BLM would attempt to acquire public access easements where no legal public access exists to or within the Monument or where additional access is needed to meet management objectives.	The BLM would attempt to acquire public access easements where no legal public access exists to or within the Monument.	The BLM would not attempt new or additional public access to or within the Monument.	
Access for Individuals with Disabilities	No additional management is identified for this alternative.	The BLM would identify specific designated roads (access) for individuals with disabilities.		No additional management is identified for this alternative.	

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Public Access on New Resource Roads Used for Natural Gas Operations	New resource roads would be open to the general public.		Restrict general public access to specified areas. No additional access would be granted to the public for the Ervin Ridge WSA.	Restrict general public access from all sensitive areas.	New resource roads would be closed for general public access.
Type of Motorized and Mechanized Use on Roads	Existing roads that are open year long or seasonally are open to all forms of motorized and mechanized use.	Roads that are open year long or seasonally are open to all forms of motorized and mechanized use.		Some roads would be limited to specific motorized and/or mechanized use.	
Game Retrieval	Motorized travel off-road for big game retrieval would not be allowed.				
		Big game retrieval would be allowed on some identified closed roads (e.g. administrative roads that may be closed to the public or roads that are seasonally closed).	Big game retrieval would be allowed on identified closed roads from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for 3 hours after the legal hunting time.	Big game retrieval would be allowed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on specific designated closed roads (roads normally open only for administrative use).	Big game retrieval would not be allowed on closed roads.
	Non-motorized/non-mechanized game carts would be allowed off-road, except in the WSAs, for the retrieval of a big game animal that is in possession (i.e. tagged). In the WSAs game carts would not be allowed off-road.	Non-motorized/non-mechanized game carts would be allowed off-road for the retrieval of a big game animal that is in possession (i.e. tagged).	Non-motorized/non-mechanized game carts would be allowed off-road, except in the WSAs, for the retrieval of a big game animal that is in possession (i.e. tagged). In the WSAs game carts would not be allowed off-road.		Non-motorized/non-mechanized game carts would be allowed on closed roads for the retrieval of a big game animal that is in possession (i.e. tagged). Game carts would not be allowed off-road.
Camping Along Roads	Motorized or mechanized vehicles	Motorized or mechanized vehicles	Motorized or mechanized vehicles	Motorized or mechanized vehicles	Motorized or mechanized vehicles

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		may not pull off designated routes for camping.		may pull off designated routes no more than 300 feet for camping using the most direct route that causes the least resource damage. Site selection must be completed by non-motorized or non-mechanized means.	may pull off designated routes no more than 150 feet for camping using the most direct route that causes the least resource damage. Site selection must be completed by non-motorized or non-mechanized means.	may pull off designated routes no more than 10 feet for camping.	may not pull off designated routes for camping.
Overall Road System							
	Vehicle Ways in WSAs	Open.			Close vehicle ways that have been reclaimed naturally.	Vehicles ways would be closed.	
	Greater Sage Grouse	Open.	For resource roads that are ¼ mile from a lek implement a seasonal closure from March 15 to June 15.		For resource roads that are ¼ mile from a lek implement a seasonal closure from March 15 to June 15. For resource roads that are located within crucial winter habitat, implement a seasonal closure from December 1 to March 15.	For some resource roads that are 2 miles from a lek implement a seasonal closure from March 15 to June 15. For some resource roads that are located within crucial winter habitat, implement a seasonal closure from December 1 to March 15.	For resource roads that are ¼ mile from a lek implement a year long closure. For resource roads that are located within crucial winter habitat, implement a seasonal closure from December 1 to March 15.
	Bighorn Sheep Lambing	Open.	For resource roads that are located within bighorn sheep lambing habitat, implement a seasonal restriction from April 1 to June 15.			For some resource and local roads that are located within bighorn sheep lambing habitat, implement a seasonal closure from April 1 to June 15.	
	Identified Big Game Winter Range	Open.			For resource roads that are located within big game winter range, implement a seasonal	For some resource roads that are located within big game winter range, implement a seasonal closure from December 1 to March 31.	

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				restriction from December 1 to March 31.		
	Sensitive Raptors	Open.	Implement a seasonal restriction on resource roads that are ¼ miles from raptor nests. The season will be determined based on the species of raptor.		Implement a seasonal restriction on some resource and local roads that are ¼ mile from raptor nests. The season will be determined based on the species of raptor.	Implement a seasonal restriction on some resource, local, and collector roads that are ¼ miles from raptor nests. The season will be determined based on the species of raptor.
	Bald Eagle	Open.	Implement a seasonal restriction on resource roads that are ½ mile from raptor nests.			
	Soils	Current maintenance level on numbered roads.	Re-route or mitigate roads with erosion problems (determined by scheduled inspections).	Re-route or mitigate roads that are currently on sites that have a high erosion risk. New road construction should avoid potentially highly erosive soils.	Conduct no maintenance or minimum recontouring and/or natural reclamation on roads with erosion problems.	Close roads with high erosion risks.
	Invasive Weeds	Open.		Implement temporary road closures in highly infested areas.	Road closures in highly infested areas.	
Road Classification, Maintenance Level, and Reclamation		Each road segment would be assigned to one of three classifications and a maintenance level that reflects the appropriate management objectives. The classification or maintenance level could be changed following an evaluation of vehicle use and resources.				
			Install cattleguards as needed or where appropriate on roads that are designated open year long.			
			Allow closed roads to reclaim naturally.	Allow closed roads to reclaim naturally. On selected sections of the closed roadways	Closed roads would be reclaimed with planned/designed reclamation. On selected sections of the closed roadways reclamation may include ripping, scarifying, and seeding with a native seed	

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			reclamation may include ripping, scarifying, and seeding with a native seed mix or a mix approved by the Monument Manager.	mix or a mix approved by the Monument Manager.	
Backcountry Airstrips	The 10 existing airstrips would be open.	The airstrips would remain open (authorized) and additional airstrips could be allowed after environmental review.	Seven airstrips would be authorized. Airstrips would be restricted seasonally, specific to wildlife habitat requirements or values for which the Monument was established.	Six airstrips would be authorized. Avoid clusters of airstrips in the same geographic area.	No airstrips would be allowed in the Monument.
		If the airstrip is also a road, and the road is closed, then the airstrip remains open.	If the airstrip is also a road, and the road is closed, then the airstrip is closed.		
		If an airstrip is to remain open then the BLM would determine to what degree maintenance is required and who would perform the maintenance.	If an airstrip is to remain open, maintenance would consist of retaining its current condition (no improvements).		
Commercial Scenic Flight Landings	Commercial aircraft landing in the Monument such as planes, helicopters, hot air balloons, or ultra lights would be allowed.		Any commercial aircraft landing in the Monument such as planes, helicopters, hot air balloons, or ultra lights would be required to only utilize authorized backcountry airstrips. Seasonal restrictions	Any commercial aircraft landing in the Monument such as planes, helicopters, hot air balloons, or ultra lights would be required to only utilize specific authorized designated backcountry airstrips.	Commercial aircraft landing in the Monument such as planes, helicopters, hot air balloons, or ultra lights would be prohibited.

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			may apply to commercial use of airstrips for takeoffs and landings.	Seasonal restrictions may apply to commercial use of airstrips for takeoffs and landings.	
Floatplanes	Floatplanes would be allowed to land within the recreational segments of the River. This includes River miles 0 to 52 (Fort Benton to Pilot Rock) and River miles 84.5 to 92.5 (Deadman’s Rapid to Holmes Council Island).			Floatplanes would be allowed to land only on the recreational segment of the River near Fort Benton (River mile 0 to <i>[river mile needs to be determined]</i>).	Floatplanes would be not be allowed to land on the River in the Monument.
Signs	Existing directional signs would be maintained. New signs would be added where needed.	Existing directional signs would be maintained. New signs would be added where monitoring indicates a need to prevent resource damage or visitor confusion. Roads open to motorized and mechanized travel would be signed. Closed roads would not be signed unless necessary to prevent resource damage.			